

Message Text

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ACTION FBO-05

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8064

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11802

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, CPRS, EG

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL US CLAIMS AGAINST EGYPT: TITLE DEED FOR
USIS AMERICAN CENTER

REF CAIRO 11224

1. ON NOV 19 DEP ASST LEGAL ADVISER HUANG AND POLCOUNS MET
WITH MFA DIR NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS TOHAMI AND AMERICAN
DESK OFFICER BOARI FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL
CLAIMS. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF PROSPECTIVE AGREEMENT ON
PRIVATE CLAIMS AND ANTICIPATED INITIALING ON NOV 26 (SEPTTEL),
DELAY IN TRANSFER OF TITLE OF USIS LIBRARY BROUGHT UP.

2. GOE OFFICIALS REAFFIRMED COMMITMENT UNDER 1967 AGREEMENT
TO GIVE BUILDING TO USG. THEY ARE NOW NOT CERTAIN, HOWEVER, HOW
SOON TITLE COULD BE TRANSFERRED IN VIEW OF ANTICIPATED COURT ACTION
BY OWNER, MRS. SIDNAWI. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, SHE PLANS TO SUE
GOE AND USG IN ATTEMPT TO REPOSSESS PROPERTY UNDER DESEQUES-
TRATION LAW. (LAWYER IS HAMED FARAG TAYEB WHO FORMERLY
SERVED AS FONMIN FOR SEVERAL MONTHS IN 1954). BORAI EXPLAINED
THAT DISCUSSIONS NOW TAKING PLACE BETWEEN EGYPTIAN PROPERTIES DEPT
OF MINHOUSING AND SEQUESTRATION DEPT OF MINFINANCE TO DETERMINE
HOW BUILDING MIGHT BE ACQUIRED FROM SIDNAWI UNDER EGYPTIAN LAW
IN LIGHT NEW, REPORTED DEVELOPMENTS AND TITLE MIGHT BE TRANS-
FERRED TO USG. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER TITLE HANDED OVER IN NEAR
FUTURE BORAI ASSURED EMBOFFS THAT GOE COMMITMENT STANDS. HE
SAID EMBASSY SHOULD NOT, IN ANY CASE, DEAL WITH LAWYER OF MRS.
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SIDNAWI. ANY DISCUSSION OF MATTER SHOULD BE ONLY BETWEEN GOE

AND USG. HUANG EXPRESSED APPRECIATION BUT REITERATED USG
DESIRE FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF FULL WARRANTY DEED CONFER-
RING FREE AND UNEMCUMBERED TITLE AND GIVING USG UNDISTURBED
POSSESSION AND USEM EMBOFFS MADE IT EXPRESSLY CLEAR THAT USG
WAS LOOKING TOWARDS GOE TO SHIELD USG FROM ANY ATTEMPTS BY
SIDNAWI TO INTERFERE WITH USG TITLE TO BUILDING AND UNDISTURBED USE.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT NOW SEEMS LIKELY THAT TRANSFER OF
TITLE WILL BE DELAYED DUE TO PENDING COURT CASE, EMBASSY SEES LITTLE
RECOURSE TO ACCEPTING MFA ASSURANCE THAT IT WILL ABIDE BY 1967
COMMITMENT TO GIVE USG THIS PROPERTY.
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Disposition Authority: woolflhd
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